

Response to Office Action Mailed January 31, 2002

Mark up ✓

A. Claims in the Case ✓

Claims 171-212 are pending. Claims 1-40, 73 and 122 have been canceled. Claims 171-212 are new.

B. The Claims Are Definite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-39 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states, "Regarding claim 73, the body of the claim does not utilize the preamble" (Office Action, page 2). Claims 1-39 and 73 have been cancelled.

C. Claims Are Not Anticipated By Kanai et al. Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-27, 29, 31-38, 73 and 122 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,864,679 to Kanai et al. (hereinafter "Kanai"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-27, 29, 31-38, 73 and 122 have, however, been canceled.

D. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Kanai in View of Amano et al. Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 13 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,033 to Amano et al. (hereinafter

“Amano”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Claims 2, 13 and 30 have, however, been canceled.

E. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Kanai in View of Troisi et al. Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,612 to Troisi (hereinafter “Troisi”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Claim 40 has, however, been canceled.

F. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 11, 28 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 171, and the claims dependent on claim 171 (claims 172-185), now include certain features from claim 11. New claim 186, and the claims dependent on claim 186 (claims 185-199), now include certain features from claim 28. New claim 200, and the claims dependent on claim 200 (claims 201-212), now include certain features from claim 39. As such, Applicant submits that claims 171, 184 and 197 and the claims dependent thereon, are allowable.

187 200
= =

G. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration.

Bobbitt et al.
09/699,054

Applicant respectfully requests a two-month extension of time. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. Applicant has enclosed a Fee Authorization for the extension of time fee. If any fees are inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required, please charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5053-30901/EBM

Respectfully submitted,



Mark R. DeLuca
Reg. No. 44,649

Patent Agent for Applicants

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398
(512) 853-8888 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)

Date: 6/24/03